

R E M A R K S

Claims 13, 19, 21, 24, 27, 38 and 42 to 54 as set forth in Appendix II remain pending in this case. Claims 14 to 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 to 37 and 39 to 41 have been canceled, as indicated in Appendix I of this paper.

Claims 13, 19, 21, 24, 27, 38 and 42 to 54 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable in light of the teaching of **Bronstert et al.** (WO 97/37397) when taken in view of the disclosure of **Koksang et al.** (US 5,340,368) and **Williams** (US 5,523,118).

Withdrawal of the respective rejection is respectfully solicited in light of applicants' supplemental submission dated May 14, 2002 (date of the Certificate of Mailing), and the certified translation of German patent application No. 197 44 660.4 enclosed therewith, which removes the disclosure of **Bronstert et al.** as prior art under Section 102(a) and (b). Furthermore, with regard to the provisions of Section 102(e), (f), and (g), the disclosure of **Bronstert et al.** in **WO 97/37397** or the corresponding U.S. patent **US 6,416,905 B1**, is excluded from the applicable prior art by the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11.0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (Appendix I)
THE AMENDED CLAIMS (Appendix II)

HBK/BAS